



Attorney Docket No. MP/157

3739
#4IDS
5/2/03/PL

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Palacios et al
Appl. No. : 10/026,108
Filed : 12/20/2001
Title : Apparatus and Method for
Applying Reinforcement
Material To A Surgical Stapler

*I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited
with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an
envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents,
Washington, DC 20231 on April 21, 2003.*

Melanie Williams
Melanee Williams

Grp/Art Unit : 3739

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

RECEIVED

APR 30 2003

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

Dear Sir:

We enclose the following papers for filing in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in connection with the above-identified Patent Application:

1. Information Disclosure Statement (1 page)
2. Information Disclosure Citation Form PTO 1449 (1 page)
3. Copy of the International Search Report (4 pages)
4. Cited Reference (1 documents)

Respectfully submitted,

David J. Johns

David J. Johns
Reg. No. 31,527
W. L. Gore & Associates, Inc.
551 Paper Mill Road
P.O. Box 9206
Newark, DE 19714-9206
(928) 864-4800

Date: 4/21/03